

AUG 23 2006

Application No.: 10/648094

Case No.: 56319US006

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 and 38-47 are pending. Claims 38-47 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 13 has been amended. Support for the amendment can be found, for example, at page 13, line 22 through page 14, line 1. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1-22 and 38-47 in view of the following remarks.

I. Restriction requirement

Applicants affirm the election of Group I (claims 1-22), with traverse.

Applicants submit that the claims in Groups I and II are so interrelated that a search of one group of claims will reveal art to the other. For example, claims 1-22 each recite a non-woven cleaning article and claims 38-47 each recite a method of using a non-woven cleaning article. Were restriction to be effected between the claims in Groups I and II, a separate examination of the claims in each of Groups I and II would require substantial duplication of work on the part of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Clearly, this duplication of effort is not warranted. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirements be reconsidered.

II. Claims 1-6, 8-17, and 19-22 are Not Obvious over Riedesel in view of McDonell et al.

Claims 1-6, 8-17, and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious in view of Riedesel (U.S. Pat. No. 2,542,058) in view of McDonell et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,282,900). Applicants request reconsideration of this rejection because neither Riedesel nor McDonell et al., alone or in combination, teach or suggest a non-woven cleaning article comprising rubber particles bound to a non-woven web with a binder having a T_g not greater than +10°C.

The present invention relates to articles for cleaning soiled surfaces. The present invention can be used, for example, to clean embedded soil on low gloss paint coatings without significantly increasing the gloss, and on high gloss paint coatings without significantly scratching or reducing the gloss (page 6, lines 15-18). Cleaning articles according to the present

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invention can be used, for example, to clean soiled painted aircraft surfaces (e.g., low-gloss paint coatings, such as found on military aircraft, and high-gloss paint coatings, such as found on commercial aircraft) (page 6, lines 13-15).

Riedesel reports a polishing sheet suitable for glass polishing having polishing powder bonded to the exterior surface of resilient particles. The resilient particles are used as a support for the polishing powder. Contrary to the Office Action's assertion, the binders reported by Riedesel for binding the resilient particles are cross-linked polymers (e.g., alkyd resins, polyvinyl butyral resin) that do not have a T_g not greater than $+10^\circ\text{C}$. In fact, Riedesel reports that softer binder materials are to be avoided because of their lack of required strength (col. 5, lines 9-15). Further, as recognized in the Office Action, Riedesel fails to teach or suggest the use of a non-woven.

McDonnell et al. reports a non-woven surface treating article for treating surfaces such as marble floors. Accordingly, the surface treating article comprises abrasive particles having a hardness greater than marble (see, column 9, lines 47-53). In contrast, the present invention requires softer particles to prevent scratching (see, e.g., Comparative Example C – calcium carbonate particles in place of rubber particles created scratches).

The Office Action alleges that one skilled in the art would have been motivated to combine the non-woven material of McDonnell et al. with the polishing sheet of Riedesel to obtain a "thick and lofty cleaning or polishing article". Applicants disagree. First, the combination suggested by the Office Action would not have resulted in Applicants' claimed invention because, as discussed above, Riedesel does not teach or suggest the use of a binder having a T_g not greater than $+10^\circ\text{C}$. Second, Riedesel specifically teaches away from the use of a "thick and lofty" backing material because of their lack of "dimensional stability" (column 4, lines 58-66). As reported by Riedesel, the presence of the resilient particles beneath the polishing powder helps maintain "a more nearly constant pressure of all operative powder particles against the surface to be polished" to obtain a "maximum polishing effect" (column 3, lines 59-69). One skilled in the art of abrasives would not expect a "thick and lofty" nonwoven to achieve the objective of providing a "nearly constant pressure".

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the rejection of claims 1-6, 8-17, and 19-22 as allegedly being obvious over Riedesel in view of McDonnell et al. should be withdrawn.

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III. Claims 7 and 18 are Not Obvious over Riedesel in view of McDonell et al. and further in view of Hiroyuki

Claims 7 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious in view of Riedesel in view of McDonell et al. and further in view of Hiroyuki (Japanese Patent Abstract JP 79007996B). Applicants request reconsideration of this rejection because, as discussed above, neither Riedesel nor McDonell et al., alone or in combination, teach or suggest a non-woven cleaning article comprising rubber particles bound to a non-woven web with a binder having a T_g not greater than $+10^\circ\text{C}$. The Patent Abstract of Hiroyuki does not overcome the deficiencies of Riedesel and McDonell et al., nor does the Office Action allege that it does. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 7 and 18 as allegedly being obvious over Riedesel in view of McDonell et al. and further in view of Hiroyuki should be withdrawn.

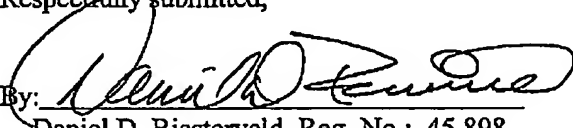
IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative with any questions concerning Applicants' application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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